

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MR. FRED CURLS**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to remember the late Mr. Fred Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. On Friday, May 15, 2015, Mr. Curls passed away, after an incredible and inspiring ninety-six years of life.

The silhouette of Mr. Curls now joins the always growing shadow of little-celebrated Kansas Citizens whose work will make a difference for generations as yet unborn. Young African-American elected officials may not realize that the very office they hold—or aspire to hold—is, in no small part, related to the political pioneering of Mr. Curls.

Mr. Curls was one of the original founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could generate nearly 70,000 votes and remains influential to this day. The organization was at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Freedom Inc.'s office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Jackson County Executives, Mayors, Missouri State Senators and Representatives, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, Presidents, and those who have Presidential aspirations.

For more than fifty years, Mr. Curls dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political empowerment and the civil rights of people of color. The ripples of his efforts are felt in our community and around the country. His children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren have followed in his footsteps in acknowledging their responsibility of giving back to the community. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. during a period when it was recognized as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat.

Since the mid-1950s, Fred Curls was involved in real estate sales and appraisals, most notably in the African-American community of Kansas City. He fought against "restrictive covenants" whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants.

In all of his activities, Mr. Curls demonstrated his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He was actively involved with his high school graduating class, the Class of 1937, which remained close even in recent years. He was honored by Jackson County, Missouri, as one of its "Legacy Awardees" for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision. He was also honored by fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis and myself as an awardee of the "Missouri Walk of Fame" designation, as one of the pioneers of Kansas City's African-American political struggle.

Throughout his life, he believed in the saying "make it happen." He put his principles into practice, and the results of his efforts "made it happen" throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to honor and remember the life of Mr. Fred Curls. Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our sympathies to the family of Mr. Fred Curls, and our gratitude for his endless commitment to serving the residents of Kansas City and the State of Missouri. Whatever we, as African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers have helped to change the course of history. He was a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

CONGRATULATING **JEFF HERMANSEN** FOR HIS BRAVE
ACT OF HEROISM ON THE JOB**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Hermansen for his heroic actions on May 5, 2015. Mr. Hermansen selflessly put himself in harm's way in order to save the life of another.

Jeff Hermansen, a UPS delivery driver, was following his usual route across the East State Street Bridge in Rockford, Illinois on Tuesday, May 5th when he noticed a man struggling in the Rock River. Without hesitating, Hermansen removed his shoes, swam into the unpredictable Rock River, and brought the stranger to safety.

Mr. Hermansen's selfless heroics are made even more impressive by his excellent character. Following the incident, he declined any special treatment and went about his delivery route.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hermansen's harrowing actions and admirable display of character are the true embodiment of a hero.

PATRICK MADDEN**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Patrick Madden as a member of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2015.

Patrick will graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 28, 2015.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Patrick's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young man will be to retain as much as possible, pass on what he learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Patrick and his accomplishments, and we look forward to him continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Air Force officer.

As Patrick embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Air Force Academy.

I would like to send Patrick my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREG COLLINS,
RECIPIENT OF THE GREAT-
ER WILKES-BARRE SALVATION
ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARD**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Greg Collins, who is receiving the Community Service Award from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Salvation Army.

Mr. Collins is the Area President for Wells Fargo's Northeast Pennsylvania market, which serves nine counties in northeast Pennsylvania. Prior to joining Wells Fargo in 1992, Mr. Collins was marketing manager for Bridon American Corporation.

A native of northeastern Pennsylvania, Mr. Collins' leadership and influence extends far beyond the workplace. He serves as a board member for several area organizations, including Misericordia University, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, Leadership Wilkes-Barre, and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Collins is a Scranton Plan committee member as well as Chairman of the 2015 American Heart Association Gala for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Collins is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Wilkes-Barre's Executive Leadership Program, as well as a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Earlier this year, he received the 2015 North Star Award from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of the Boy Scouts of America. This community service award recognizes individuals for their contributions and dedication on behalf of humanity and the promotion of health and wellness for all.

It is a distinct honor to honor Greg Collins on receiving the Greater Wilkes-Barre Salvation Army Community Service Award, and I commend him for the many years of dedicated service he provided to our local community. His work on behalf of others serves as an inspiration for all of us.